

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus with an image reading unit for reading image information of an original placed on one surface of an original table by scanning
5 along the other surface of the original table, and a guide shaft provided at a position that divides the image reading unit into two regions and adapted to guide the image reading unit in a scanning direction, comprising:

10 a holding member extending along the image reading unit in a direction perpendicular to the guide shaft, adapted to hold the image reading unit at two ends thereof, and pivotal about the guide shaft; and
biasing means, provided between the image reading
15 unit, at one of the two regions thereof, and said holding member, for biasing the image reading unit through said holding member toward the original table over the two regions.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
20 holding member urges the other region of the image reading unit toward the original table by a biasing force of said biasing means which acts on one region of the image reading unit, and lever operation of the guide shaft.

25 3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein one region of the image reading unit is supported to be movable pivotally and perpendicularly by said holder

member and the other region of the image reading unit is pivotally supported by said holding member.

4. A method of supporting an image reading unit for reading image information of an original placed on one surface of an original table in an image reading apparatus by scanning along the other surface of the original table, comprising the steps of:

holding the image reading unit at two ends of a holding member, extending along the image reading unit in a direction perpendicular to a guide shaft provided at a position that divides the image reading unit into two regions, and pivotal about the guide shaft, while guiding the image reading unit in a scanning direction with the guide shaft, and

biasing the image reading unit through the holding member toward the original table over the two regions with biasing means provided between the image reading unit, at one of the two regions thereof, and the holding member.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the holding member urges the other region of the image reading unit toward the original table by a biasing force of the biasing means which acts on one region of the image reading unit, and lever operation of the guide shaft.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein one region of the image reading unit is supported to be

movable pivotally and perpendicularly by said holder member and the other region of the image reading unit is pivotally supported by said holding member.

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